

BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS
FOR GLADYS COOKE

HON. BRENDA JONES

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Ms. JONES of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a very happy birthday to a retired teacher in my district, Gladys Cooke. Born on December 17, 1938, Gladys was the third child of Jessie Mae and Robert Jones.

She graduated from Parker High School and Miles College in Birmingham, Alabama, and became a teacher in the Detroit school system, where she taught math at Cass Technical High School, Mumford High School, and Cooley High School. As a young woman she was featured in *Ebony Magazine*.

She has 3 brothers and 4 sisters, one of whom is deceased. She is the proud mother of Dr. Tiffany A. Cook of Atlanta, Georgia.

She will be celebrating her 80th Birthday next week with friends, family, and loved ones at Joe Muer Seafood at the Renaissance Center in Detroit.

RECOGNIZING DANIEL
LAFROMBOISE FOR THE 2018
MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VET-
ERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Daniel LaFromboise of Wolf Creek, a recipient of the 2018 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. LaFromboise proudly joined the United States Marine Corps soon after graduating high school. He served as a Corporal stationed in Korea in the late 1950's, following the Korean War. His service to his community has continued well after his military career.

Mr. LaFromboise became a member of the Montana law enforcement community, serving thirteen years with the Montana Highway Patrol and three years as a Deputy Sheriff in Lewis and Clark County. A member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa tribe, Mr. LaFromboise participated in a state sponsored bison program and volunteered his personal time to deliver bison meat to families in need. His dedication to serving hungry families often meant driving hundreds of miles on deliveries.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Daniel LaFromboise for his dedication and service.

SUPPORT FOR H. RES. 1169, RE-
AFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES TO PRO-
MOTE FREE, FAIR, TRANS-
PARENT AND CREDIBLE ELEC-
TIONS IN BANGLADESH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1169 calling for a free and fair election in Bangladesh. My district is home to a large population of Bangladeshi ex-pats, and I've heard from them about the need for a free, fair, transparent, and credible election.

During the 2014 general election, major Bangladeshi political parties boycotted the election due to concerns about the impartiality of the electoral process. Historically, Bangladesh would install a caretaker government during elections to ensure free, fair, transparent, and credible elections. However, during the 2014 election, that didn't happen. Since then, there have been political rivalries that have devolved into violent clashes. All parties should be free to participate in the political process. They should be free to express their political views, campaign and hold peaceful rallies and meetings, and not fear physical retribution for exercising a fundamental human right to participate in the democratic electoral process.

I believe that free, fair, transparent, and credible elections are the cornerstone of democracy. As Bangladesh is scheduled to hold general elections at the end of the month, I urge everyone to participate in the democratic process, and vote.

I'm a proud co-sponsor of this resolution and urge my colleagues support as well.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND CA-
REER OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL
THOMAS C. SMITH III

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and career of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas C. Smith III, who served ably as Director of the Birmingham VA Medical Center during his distinguished career in the U.S. Army and with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Throughout his career, Mr. Smith worked tirelessly to provide care for our nation's Service Members and Veterans. Mr. Smith was a man of the highest character who loved his family and who dedicated himself to God and country.

Mr. Smith was born in Phenix City, Alabama, on July 6, 1953, to parents Thomas C. Smith II and Ganelle Putnam Smith. He grew up with three sisters, Kaye, Phyllis, and Deborah, who he loved and cherished greatly.

After graduating from Central High School, Mr. Smith attended Auburn University where he was well known for his acting talent and often graced the stage of Telfair Peet Theatre. Upon earning his degree at Auburn, Mr. Smith worked at the Ritz Theater in Gadsden, Alabama. It was there, as Director of the Ritz

Theater, that Mr. Smith met the love of his life, and his future wife, JoDean.

Over the course of their marriage, JoDean and Mr. Smith had six beautiful children, including two sons, Justin and Drew, and four daughters, Adrienne, Emily, Laura, and Kathleen.

At the age of 29, Mr. Smith joined the U.S. Army, pursuing a career of service in the field of health care. As a Service Member, Mr. Smith studied at Baylor University, receiving his Masters in Healthcare Administration in 1992. Mr. Smith worked at U.S. Army hospitals around the globe, from the Army General Hospital in Seoul, South Korea, to the Army Health Center in Vicenza, Italy. His 22-year career in the U.S. Army culminated with Mr. Smith's work as Deputy Commander for Administration of the Army Community Hospital at Fort Benning, Georgia.

While in the military, Mr. Smith was inducted into the Order of Military Medical Merit, an honorary organization which recognizes leadership and significant contributions to the Army Medical Department. He also earned the Expert Field Medical Badge and received the Army Legion of Merit for exceptional meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.

After retiring from the military in 2005, Mr. Smith began serving as Assistant Director and thereafter Director of the Central Texas Veterans Affairs Hospital. After eight years there, Mr. Smith accepted the Directorship role at the Birmingham Veterans Affairs Medical Center. For those who had the opportunity to work with Mr. Smith he will always be remembered as a tireless servant leader who cared deeply for our Veterans, appreciated those who worked with him, and related to everyone with compassion and respect.

While Mr. Smith dedicated himself fully to caring for Service Members and Veterans, he was also a devoted father and husband. He was always happiest when he was surrounded by his loving wife, his children, and his grandchildren. Mr. Smith's Catholic faith was of the utmost importance to him, and he truly sought to live each day according to Christ's example.

On a personal note, I got to know Mr. Smith when he assumed the role of Director of the Birmingham VA Medical Center. Mr. Smith was a true patriot who led by example. His warm smile and engaging spirit greeted every Service Member and Veteran that sought care at the Birmingham VA Hospital. Mr. Smith made a positive and lasting impact on the Veteran community in Birmingham. His legacy will live on in the many people he touched through his long career providing quality health care to our military Service Members and Veterans.

Mr. Smith is survived by his wife, JoDean, son Justin and daughter-in-law Molly, son Drew and daughter-in-law Angie, daughter Adrienne and son-in-law Richard Stravitsch, daughter Emily and son-in-law Daniel Henson, daughter Laura, daughter Kathleen, and fourteen grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters, Kaye Latulippe, Phyllis Mann, and Deborah Smith. He is preceded in death by his parents, Thomas C. Smith II and Ganelle Putnam Smith.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 7th Congressional District and the State of Alabama, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the career and incredible contributions of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas C. Smith III. He served his

country well, and his contributions as a servant leader will be remembered in Alabama for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTER FOR
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Center for Excellence in Education, a non-profit that sparks curiosity in high school and university students in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields, on 35 years of service to communities across the country. Because of CEE's collaborative work, students, teachers, researchers, and leaders are successfully paving the way for a new generation of STEM leaders.

San Diegans know the value of promoting STEM opportunities. Some of our region's biggest employers are biotech companies, looking to our students for their future researchers in part thanks to CEE's work and alumni. One of the largest economic drivers in our region is our innovation economy, which relies on a workforce versed in STEM fields. CEE sponsors free programs that connect students and their teachers to educational institutions, private foundations, corporations, and government agencies, to help prepare students across the country for these high-quality jobs. Teachers also have benefitted from CEE enrichment programs offered in California and other states across the country. This past year, UC San Diego—one of our burgeoning centers for innovation—hosted CEE's USA Biology Olympiad.

As San Diego and our country continue to invest in STEM education and encourage students to be curious and connect with professionals, CEE sets a vision for that future. Their commitment to 35 years of service across the country deserves praise and recognition, and I am proud to congratulate them on their successes.

HONORING PACIFIC GROVE MAYOR
BILL KAMPE

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retiring Mayor of Pacific Grove, Bill Kampe for his career in public service and his commitment to the people of the central coast of California. His professional accomplishments and leadership in the community have affected the lives of many.

Throughout his ten years in public office, Mayor Kampe served the City of Pacific Grove as a dynamic and effective leader. Mayor Kampe endeavored in his three terms as Mayor and two terms as a Councilmember to improve the city's infrastructure, allowing visitors and residents to continue enjoying the breathtaking vistas and charming storefronts. Mayor Kampe has been a strong advocate for ocean protection, including procuring the Lovers Point Watershed project to help pre-

serve our National Marine Sanctuary. Mayor Kampe also updated the city's Historic Preservation Ordinance to preserve city resources and maintain the city's historic properties.

In addition to his distinguished service as Mayor and Councilmember, Mayor Kampe holds several regional leadership roles that greatly benefit our community on the Central Coast. As President of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority, he has worked to help remediate water shortages on the Monterey Peninsula. Additionally, Mayor Kampe has dedicated his time to representing Pacific Grove on the Fort Ord Reuse Authority, an entity overseeing the development of the former military base Fort Ord. As a Navy veteran, Mayor Kampe has ensured that local resources remain accessible for local veterans and active-duty members of the military.

Throughout his career, Mayor Kampe prioritized the importance of giving back to our community's youth by hosting mock City Council meetings. Through this program, students are inspired to engage with current issues in Pacific Grove and learn the value of civic engagement. This spirit of service is evident in Mayor Kampe's service as a member of the Pacific Grove Beautification Committee and the Pacific Grove Rotary Club, and his volunteer contributions at countless town functions and events.

I thank Mayor Kampe for his service to his country, community, and the City of Pacific Grove. As he celebrates his retirement, I am proud to commend him on his invaluable work as a public servant for the past decade. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing former Mayor of Pacific Grove, Bill Kampe, on his career of service and congratulate him on a well-earned retirement.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF RONALD G.
RATLIFF, JR.

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chief Ronald G. Ratliff, Jr., for his life of service to our nation in the United States Navy.

Chief Ratliff, coming from a family of coal miners in Elkhorn City, Kentucky, raised his right hand to enlist in the United States Navy in 1995. For the last 23 years, Ronnie has served with distinction—both here at home and around the world, charging forward as his career in the Navy legal field took him from Kentucky to Rhode Island and California to Guam, with deployments in between. Following the completion of Navy legal training in Rhode Island, his first assignment was in San Diego, where he provided critical legal assistance to our sailors and marines. He was then sent to Guam, where he handled all military justice matters for the command.

Chief Ratliff returned to San Diego to serve as a Discipline Officer and paralegal to the Commander of the Navy Region Southwest, before volunteering to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served two additional deployments, and was promoted to Chief Petty Officer. Given his great success, Chief Ratliff was given the opportunity to attend the United States Coast Guard Chief

Petty Officer's Academy in California, representing the Navy and maintaining the strong relationship with the Coast Guard. He was then sent to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where he served as Staff Judge Advocate LCPO and Discipline Officer.

In 2014, Chief Ratliff was selected as the U.S. Navy's first enlisted member of its prestigious Defense Fellow program with the Office of Legislative Affairs. Chief Ratliff first served in the office of my friend from California, Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS. During his time in Congresswoman DAVIS's office, Chief Ratliff provided critical counsel and assistance in helping Congresswoman DAVIS achieve her goals on the House Armed Services Committee. Upon completion of the fellowship in 2016, Chief Ratliff joined the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs as a Congressional Liaison Officer. In this role, Chief Ratliff has served as a critical resource, helping members of Congress and their staffs understand the critical issues facing the U.S. Navy and its sailors. He has also escorted countless Members of Congress, personal staff and professional staff on Congressional Delegations or Staff Delegations within the United States and around the world, advancing the mission of the U.S. Navy.

As a fellow Kentuckian, I could not be more proud of the career of Chief Ronnie Ratliff. It is honorable servicemen like Chief Ratliff who inspire us each and every day, and I wish him all the best as he enters into retirement. Congratulations, Chief Ratliff, and God speed.

HONORING PETE HOOD

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Pete Hood for his contribution to our state.

Pete has had a long and distinguished career working as a Human Resources executive for the United Parcel Service (UPS) in Indiana. Pete is set to retire at the end of this year. I would like to congratulate him on a long career and wish him all the best in his retirement.

Throughout Pete's career, he has been a champion for UPS's culture and values. Pete will consistently tell you that UPS is a unique company with its own way of doing things. Deliberately. Precisely. Efficiently. With Integrity. To me, Pete embodies those principles.

Over the years, Pete and I have become friends. Pete has taken me on tours of several different UPS facilities around the state, and he even convinced me to wear the iconic brown uniform and ride around in a delivery truck. I've enjoyed the time we have gotten to spend together and have appreciated his wise counsel and advice.

I would like to thank Pete for his friendship and support of my work in Congress. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for his family.